

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for determining freight rates, comprising:
a rate sheet input module for accepting data representative of a rate sheet, the rate sheet specifying freight rates;
a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage module for storing a plurality of templates, each template adapted to interpret a particular type of rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer module for heuristically analyzing the rate sheet ~~comparing the plurality of templates in the template storage module with the rate sheet~~ to identify a template in the template storage module adapted to interpret the rate sheet; and
a rule generation module for generating rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the identified template and the rate sheet.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises:
a user-interface module adapted to provide an interface with which a user can specify information about the rate sheet.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the heuristic analysis performed by the rate sheet analyzer module includes identifying ~~identifies~~ the template adapted to interpret the rate sheet responsive to keywords in the rate sheet.
6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the keywords signify types of data in the rate sheet.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the heuristic analysis performed by the rate sheet analyzer module identifies the template responsive to locations of the keywords in the rate sheet.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet analyzer module is adapted to identify potential errors in the rate sheet.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the template storage module is local to the rate sheet analyzer module.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the template storage module is remote from the rate sheet analyzer module.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to a remote location for analysis.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the communications module is adapted to communicate the rate sheet to the remote location responsive to a determination by the rate sheet analyzer module that no template in the template storage module is adapted to interpret the rate sheet.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a communications module for receiving templates adapted to interpret rate sheets and providing the templates to the template storage module.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
an accessorial charge module for accepting data representative of accessorial charges for the freight rates;
wherein the rule generation module generates the rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the accessorial charges.

15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) A method of determining freight rates, comprising:
receiving data representative of a rate sheet, the rate sheet specifying freight rates;
interfacing with a template storage module storing a plurality of templates, each template adapted to interpret a particular type of rate sheet;
heuristically analyzing the rate sheet ~~comparing the plurality of templates in the template storage module with the rate sheet~~ to identify a template in the template storage module adapted to interpret the rate sheet; and
generating rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the identified template and the rate sheet.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.
18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.
19. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
provide a user interface with which a user can specify information about the rate sheet.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein heuristically analyzing the comparing comprises:
identifying the template adapted to interpret the rate sheet responsive to keywords in the rate sheet.
21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the keywords signify types of data in the rate sheet.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~16~~²⁰, wherein heuristically analyzing comprises:

~~the identifying occurs responsive to~~ locations of the keywords in the rate sheet.

23. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of: identifying potential errors in the rate sheet.

24. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the template storage module is local.

25. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the template storage module is remote.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein heuristically analyzing ~~the comparing~~ further comprises:
communicating the rate sheet to a remote location for analysis.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the communicating comprises:
communicating the rate sheet to the remote location responsive to a determination that no template in the template storage module is adapted to interpret the rate sheet.

28. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
receiving templates adapted to interpret rate sheets; and
providing the templates to the template storage module.

29. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
accepting data representative of accessorial charges for the freight rates; and

generating rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the accessorial charges.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:
a computer-readable medium having computer program logic embodied therein for determining freight rates, the computer program logic comprising:
a rate sheet input module for accepting data representative of a rate sheet, the rate sheet specifying freight rates;
a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage module for storing a plurality of templates, each template adapted to interpret a particular type of rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer module for heuristically analyzing the rate sheet ~~comparing the plurality of templates in the template storage module with the rate sheet~~ to identify a template in the template storage module adapted to interpret the rate sheet; and
a rule generation module for generating rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the identified template and the rate sheet.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

33. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.

34. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer program logic further comprises:
a user-interface module adapted to provide an interface with which a user can specify information about the rate sheet.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the heuristic analysis performed by the rate sheet analyzer module includes identifying identifies the template adapted to interpret the rate sheet responsive to keywords in the rate sheet.

36. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the keywords signify types of data in the rate sheet.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim ~~31~~35, wherein the heuristic analysis performed by the rate sheet analyzer module identifies the template responsive to locations of the keywords in the rate sheet.

38. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet analyzer module is adapted to identify potential errors in the rate sheet.

39. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the template storage module is local to the rate sheet analyzer module.

40. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the template storage module is remote from the rate sheet analyzer module.

41. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer program logic further comprises:

a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to a remote location for analysis.

42. (Original) The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the communications module is adapted to communicate the rate sheet to the remote location responsive to a determination by the rate sheet analyzer module that no template in the template storage module is adapted to interpret the rate sheet.

43. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer program logic further comprises:

a communications module for receiving templates adapted to interpret rate sheets and providing the templates to the template storage module.

44. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer program logic further comprises:

an accessorial charge module for accepting data representative of accessorial charges for the freight rates;

wherein the rule generation module generates the rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the accessorial charges.

45. (Canceled)